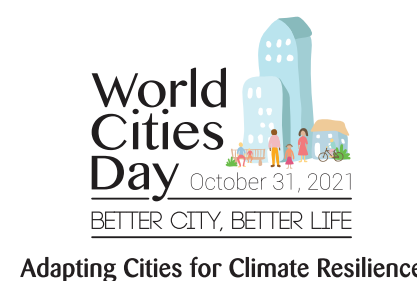
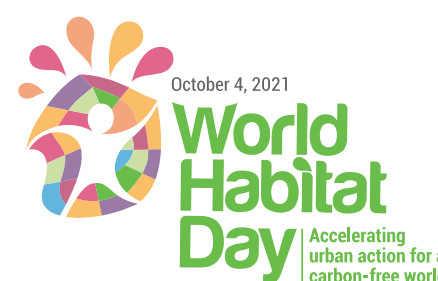


Urban October – Join us for an action packed month



31 DAYS OF PROMOTING A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Every year UN-Habitat and partners organize a month of activities, events and discussions around urban sustainability in October. This year's Urban October focuses on the climate crisis - also the focus of UN-Habitat's current campaign [ClimateAction4Cities](#). The month begins with [World Habitat Day](#) on 4 October with the theme **Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world**. The hybrid Global Observance will take place in Yaoundé, Cameroon, register [here](#) to be part of the action and ask questions or watch on [livestream](#).

Urban October draws to a close with [World Cities Day](#) on 31 October 2021 focused on **Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience** with the Global Observance located in Luxor, Egypt. Look out for registration and livestreaming details [here](#).

Everyone interested in sustainable urbanization from national and local governments to universities, NGOs and communities is encouraged to hold or participate in virtual or physical activities, events, and discussions during the month. Post your 2021 Urban October event on [UN-Habitat's website](#) and promote it using #UrbanOctober #WorldHabitatDay #WorldCitiesDay. Please feel free to contact us on unhabitat-events@un.org or for World Habitat Day on unhabitat-whd@un.org and for World Cities Day unhabitat-wcd@un.org and keep checking [Urban October | Urban October \(unhabitat.org\)](#).

Winners announced for UN-Habitat's prestigious Scroll of Honour

We warmly congratulate the five winners of this year's Scroll of Honour who will be presented with their awards during the Global Observance of World Habitat Day in Yaoundé. They are;

1. New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA), Egypt
2. Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), Kenya
3. Baoji City, China
4. Let's do it World (LDIW), Estonia
5. Ciudad Emergente (CEM), Chile

For more information see [here](#).



Join the global movement of Voluntary Local Reviews

The global movement of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) is growing rapidly with cities, local and regional governments worldwide using them to track and report on SDG progress. UN-Habitat, in cooperation with its partners, leads the global research on VLRs. To strengthen multi-level governance for SDG implementation, UN-Habitat also directly assists national and local governments to better articulate their efforts to monitor and report on the SDGs, specifically looking at enhancing the link between VLRs and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Together with the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) network, UN-Habitat has created the VLR Series, a global initiative aimed at providing local and national governments worldwide with knowledge on VLRs as well as learning opportunities with peers. Visit the [website](#) to read more.

A year after the Beirut Port explosion



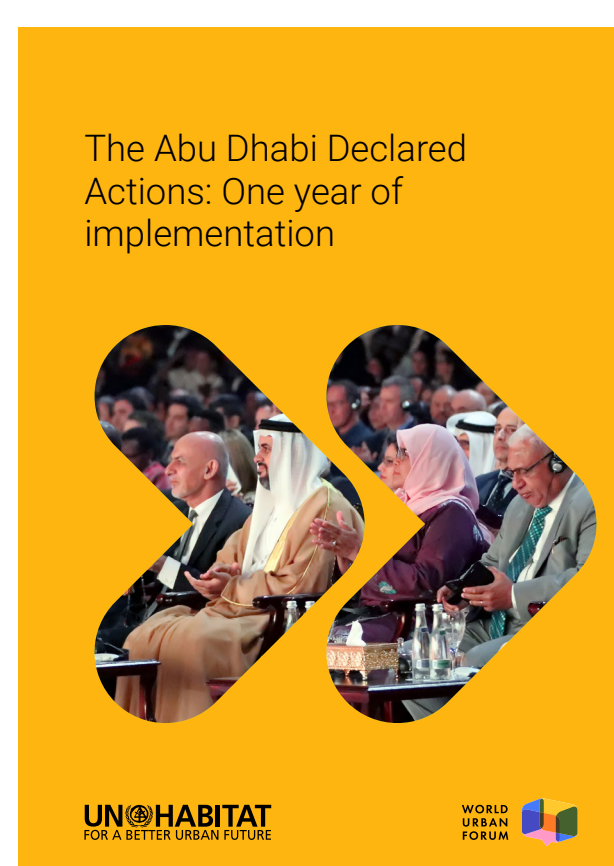
The devastating Beirut explosion on 4 August last year created significant immediate humanitarian needs and severe long-term consequences. One year later, Lebanon's capital city continues to struggle to pick up the pieces. According to a recent UN-Habitat assessment of 175 buildings within two kilometres of the explosion's epicentre, 130 have either been completely or partially rehabilitated, 20 have been propped up with scaffolding and 25 have not been rehabilitated at all.

The country continues to suffer a severe financial and economic crisis alongside a political stalemate. Some of the immediate needs seen directly after the explosion remain. Access to safe and affordable housing has become even more scarce.

UN-Habitat is refocusing its efforts on larger scale interventions on housing rehabilitation and urban recovery. One example with funding from Japan involves the restoration of 11 severely damaged multi-storey residential buildings in the heart of Beirut, including critical municipal infrastructure services in Bourj Hammoud. This project will reach around 7,165 individuals directly and 13,000 indirectly. Together with the United Nations family, UN-Habitat continues to contribute to improving living conditions for thousands of people who were directly affected by the explosion and still face hardships.

UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives Reviews implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023

The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UN-Habitat held its first open-ended high-level midterm review since the new Governance Structure came into place from 29 June to 1 July 2021. Over 300 participants including the then President of the United Nations General Assembly Mr. Volkan Bozkir, the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta, Ministers and Ambassadors took part in the meeting. The UN-Habitat Executive Director gave an update on results achieved so far in the implementation of the first two years of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023, stressing that the integrated implementation of the Strategic Plan was constrained by the uneven funding of the four Domains of Change and the continuous lack of core funding. The outcomes of the high-level midterm review are contained in document [HSP/OECPR.2021/8](#). They include a set of 4 recommendations on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session in May 2019, on the implementation of UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, the Quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum and on the Dates and agenda of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and dates and agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the CPR.



The Abu Dhabi declared actions: One year of implementation

The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) which took place in 2020, in Abu Dhabi ended with a call for united action to ensure a sustainable future for cities and towns. The outcome, known as the **Abu Dhabi Declared Actions**, includes commitments from international organizations, national, local and regional governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and others for the next two years and beyond to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A year after WUF10, UN-Habitat invited its partners to share their progress on the Abu Dhabi Declared Actions on the [Urban Agenda Platform](#) an online knowledge portal developed by UN-Habitat for global, regional, national and local stakeholders to share reports, best practices and data on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

All Declared Actions were populated representing collaboration and cooperation among 40 global partners. UN-Habitat's report, [The Abu Dhabi Declared Actions: one year of implementation](#), highlights 24 of these actions.



Act now!

Help us rebuild lives

UN-Habitat needs your support to raise funds for people and communities most affected by the humanitarian crises in the Arab region. Our **DONATE** online platform gives you the chance to help address the multiple and complex crises, including conflicts and natural disasters. Your donations will go towards supporting the humanitarian response in the region to provide clean water, sanitation and shelter, and rebuild critical infrastructure to serve those most affected by humanitarian crises.

The Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum: Transforming our cities for a better urban future



The World Urban Forum (WUF) is the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization. WUF11 will be held in the Polish city of Katowice from 26-30 June 2022. Representatives of national, regional and local governments, academics, business people, community leaders and urban planners will be among the thousands of people expected to attend the Forum which is being co-organized by UN-Habitat with Poland's Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy and the Municipal Office of Katowice. Under the theme *"Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future"* participants in

WUF11 will debate how to improve the accessibility of cities, ensuring the digital and physical inclusion of all groups of society in the future of sustainable urban development. WUF11 will provide greater insights and clarity on the future of cities based on existing trends, challenges and opportunities, and suggest ways cities can be better prepared to address future pandemics and a wide range of other shocks. A roundtable will be dedicated to the priorities of persons with disabilities, to provide them with an opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise to support decision makers and urban stakeholders with key steps towards inclusion and accessibility.

Registration for the event will be open soon. For more information, please see <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/> or <https://wuf11.katowice.eu/>

UN-Habitat launches open sustainable urban mobility classroom to support cities to plan for low carbon, inclusive mobility systems



In a world where transport is responsible of a **quarter of energy-related CO₂ emissions**, road-related accidents cause more than **1.35 million fatalities** annually, and outdoor air pollution results in **3.2 million premature deaths** each year worldwide, there is a pressing need for a shift to sustainable mobility. To find solutions to these challenges, UN-Habitat, together with Doppelmayr Seilbahnen GmbH, launched the **Online Classroom 'Taking Sustainable Urban Mobility to the Next Level' in August 2021**. This virtual learning environment contains a wealth of information covering all aspects relevant to the transition to low carbon and sustainable mobility in cities. The information is presented by experts in seven bite-size videos, and includes contributions from the World Resources Institute, KfW Development Bank, MyClimate and Deutsche Bahn. The Class is self-paced and freely accessible to all upon registration. Local and national-level urban mobility stakeholders from around the globe are invited to join the platform and can also register

their interest in the **Academy of Sustainable Urban Mobility (AoSUM)**. The AoSUM is an annual expert workshop for urban mobility decision makers who come together to exchange best practices and create a shift towards innovative urban mobility paradigms for their cities. Participants in the online classroom can apply for selection and participation to the AoSUM. For further information, please visit the **classroom**, or contact Stefanie Holzwarth of UN-Habitat's Urban Mobility team on stefanie.holzwarth@un.org.

Innovate4Cities 2021 Conference



UN-Habitat and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) invite everyone to the virtual Innovate4Cities (I4C) conference, a virtual multi-day global/regional event bringing together science and innovation, policy and practice to enable cities to take accelerated and more ambitious climate action. The I4C Conference will involve over 1,000 city leaders, scientists, researchers, innovators, academics, youth, and business people to advance pragmatic and action-oriented research and science that will help cities reduce their carbon footprint and increase resilience to climate change in a way that delivers socio-economic benefits and is socially inclusive. Click [here](#) to register.



We are happy to announce the new call for proposals for the Urban Thinkers Campus Phase 7 (UTC 7.0).

Deadline for applications: **20 October 2021 midnight (GMT)**
Applications should be submitted online at the following link: [HERE](#)

Her City Toolbox for participatory public space planning and design

Involving girls in urban development will make cities better for everyone. **Her City** platform makes methods and tools available to urban actors and cities globally. It supports cities to scale up and mainstream girls' participation as a part of their long-term strategies to build sustainable cities and societies. **Her City toolbox** is the digital next step in the #UrbanGirlsMovement initiative. It has gathered global best practices in participatory urban planning and design and created collaboration platforms for urban actors that focus on development from girls' and young women's needs and perspectives in urban development. In order to mainstream and share the result globally, the **toolbox** was developed with experts and stakeholders in urban development.

Initiated six months ago by UN-Habitat, in partnership with Global Utmaning and financed by the Swedish Innovation Agency, **Her City toolbox** has already received over 700 registered users from 250 cities in 90 countries. There are partner projects starting or ongoing in Johannesburg, South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Beirut, Lebanon; Flemingsberg, Sweden; Koge, Denmark; Lima, Peru; Gaza and the West Bank, State of Palestine; Chennai and Delhi, India.



Participatory incremental urban planning toolbox goes digital



The **Participatory Incremental Urban Planning (PIUP) Toolbox** aims to support national, regional, and local governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. The Toolbox is a step-by-step guide to assess, design, operationalize and implement urban planning processes. It helps the different urban stakeholders to better understand urban planning processes and to assess at which stage they need to participate to ensure that their voices are heard, and their interests considered as part of the city's vision, policies, strategies, plans and projects. The digital product aims to become a platform for knowledge exchange. Through the platform, users will be able to interact and communicate with each other, exchange knowledge, build partnerships and encourage peer-to-peer learning and feedback. Readers are encouraged to send their input and feedback; potential donors and investors interested in supporting the PIUP platform development can contact javier.torner@un.org.

Arab States

TUNISIA



UN-Habitat uses art to build social cohesion between host community and migrants in La Marsa

"It is not the difference of nationality that is important but the cultures and traditions of each other. It is an opportunity to get to know each other..." said Cedric, one of the participants.

The city of La Marsa has undergone major urban upheavals in recent years and has welcomed an increasing number of sub-Saharan migrants, including workers, students, and families with young children. Together with Tunisie Terre d'Asile and funded through the European Union and Swiss cooperation, UN-Habitat project Mediterranean City to City Migrations (MC2CM) has fostered social cohesion among migrants and host communities through art creation activities. Dance, theatre, and urban fresco making were among the activities included in the workshops which engaged young people from the municipality of La Marsa and its outskirts. These activities were selected for their ability to facilitate learning a foreign language, as well as encourage intercommunity and intercultural exchanges. The activities took place at the youth complex of La Marsa, located in the heart of the city, in collaboration with the municipality of La Marsa. The youth complex provides a much-needed space for recreation, cultural exchange and social interaction, and will benefit from rehabilitation work under this project. A training course will be organized by Tunisie Terre d'Asile, targeting journalists from national, local and community media, with a focus on migration related challenges and migrants' rights.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Child-friendly open public spaces in Sharjah, UAE

"Our role is to ensure that children are given opportunities to achieve their dreams and aspirations, and to have a say in changing not only the future, but their present reality as well..." Dr. Hessa Khalfan Al Ghazal from Sharjah Child-Friendly Office.

The Emirate of Sharjah is committed to providing safe, vibrant, inclusive, and resilient open public spaces that are child friendly. Sharjah Child Friendly Office (SCFO) and Sharjah Urban Planning Council (SUPC) commissioned the child-friendly Urban Planning Project with support from UNICEF, and UN-Habitat. The objective of collaboration was to evaluate the state of public open spaces and the impacts on the usability and user experience and propose strategic recommendations. In order to improve safety and security, accessibility, and inclusion in public spaces for children. At the neighbourhood level, a park was identified by the local government for upgrading. A participatory design and community engagement workshop using the Block by Block methodology was conducted to get children's ideas on the design of the park. More than 100 children were involved in participatory workshops, including children with special needs. This was scaled up to the city level where a City-wide Public Space Assessment tool was utilized. Over 40 volunteers were trained on the use of the tool and supported in collecting data for 60 open public spaces. The assessment focused on understanding the quantity, distribution and quality of public spaces. These activities informed the development of the Sharjah Child-Friendly Open Public Spaces Guidelines which are intended to act as a starting point for the design and development of child-friendly and family-friendly open public spaces in the Emirate.

IRAQ



Local authorities in Heet, Iraq celebrate the handover of UN-Habitat projects funded by the European Union and Alwaleed Philanthropies

More than three years after the official end of the ousting of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Iraq, damaged and destroyed houses and the lack of basic services remain some of the main obstacles preventing the sustainable return of displaced persons to their hometowns and communities. This has been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the aim of encouraging the sustainable return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and enhancing living conditions and livelihoods in conflict-affected governorates, in 2019 the European Union partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN-Habitat to implement local recovery projects in five targeted communities, including the town of Heet. On 8 June 2021, UN-Habitat brought together MP Sheikh Adil Khamis Al-Mahlawi, representatives from the Governor of Anbar's office, and representatives from Heet as well as Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and Ms. Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano who is Deputy Special Representative, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, to celebrate the completion and impact of these activities on the community of Al Baker and to inaugurate the newly created Al-Nejoom park. Thanks to funding from Alwaleed Philanthropies and the European Union, UN-Habitat has rehabilitated 180 war-damage houses; renovated a primary school; created a new park and two sports facilities; upgraded and extended potable networks serving over 600 houses and 4,125 people; rehabilitated two Water Treatment Plants; upgraded seven health facilities, including Heet's General Hospital, to protect some 130,000 people; created over 6,500 working days for Heet residents in construction, civil works and landscaping; organised several sports events; conducted a planting campaign with a local volunteer group and provided vocational training for 120 unemployed youth.

PALESTINE



Cities in Palestine are making effort towards safe and inclusive public spaces

Palestinian communities lack safe and inclusive public spaces. The lack of proper planning and investment in public space has negatively impacted people's quality of life, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable. In 2014, UN-Habitat surveyed hundreds of spaces in East Jerusalem, Area C and Gaza Strip and selected six spaces for upgrading together with the communities. UN-Habitat worked with the local authorities, local organizations and communities in the co-design, co-creation, and management of these spaces. Using innovative participatory approaches, such as the Block by Block methodology the project allowed communities to design their own neighbourhoods and shared spaces. The public spaces that were upgraded are now accessible and enjoyed by 53,000 community members. In Ramallah, UN-Habitat and partners have launched a project to create a social gathering space in the neighbourhood. The social space allows for small-scale planting by women to resemble familiar environments in which they can grow herbs and climbing plants on two arches that mirror the existing facade of an old house at the site. These projects have inspired a scaling-up phase with the Haya Joint Programme focusing on creating safer and more inclusive public space for women and girls. UN-Habitat provided support to the national and local government to up-scale initiatives to five cities (Khan Younis, Jenin, Nablus, Jericho and Bethlehem Cluster of Ad Doha, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala and Bethlehem). City-wide public space assessments were conducted in each of the five cities which provided recommendations to inform the development of national and local policies and strategies. Capacity development sessions were conducted with over 80 participants including the local government and over 50 data collectors were trained on the use of the City-wide public space assessment toolkit. These initiatives support the authorities in prioritizing investment and establishing design principles to make public spaces safer and more inclusive for all.

Africa

NIGERIA



Localizing SDGs through urban planning and mobility projects in Lagos, Nigeria

Lagos is Nigeria’s largest city and main economic hub but rapid expansion has brought several challenges, such as inadequate infrastructure, road traffic congestion, and a high proportion of the population living in slums. The UK Government funded **Global Future Cities Programme** promotes sustainable development and increased prosperity in **Lagos**, among 18 other cities across 10 countries. UN-Habitat is a strategic and capacity building partner of the Programme. Two projects are being developed in Lagos, with technical assistance of delivery partner Adam Smith International. The first project provides guidelines for urban renewal and slum upgrading, benefiting communities living in slums through provision of adequate housing and infrastructure. The other intervention will foster and improve water transport within Lagos’ integrated urban transport system, promoting inclusive and sustainable mobility for all. As highlighted by Famuyiwa Ibrahim, the Head of Operations at Lagos State Waterways Authority, “we are better positioned than we were a year ago and the local communities currently expect more engagements and possible investments to improve accessibility and mobility.”

In both projects, UN-Habitat is applying the **SDG Project Assessment Tool**, an instrument that guides city authorities and delivery partners to develop more inclusive, sustainable and effective urban projects aligned to the Agenda 2030. For example, in Lagos the tool has encouraged mainstreaming social inclusion: since the beginning, several stakeholder engagement forums have been established to address the needs of affected communities and disadvantaged groups throughout different project stages.

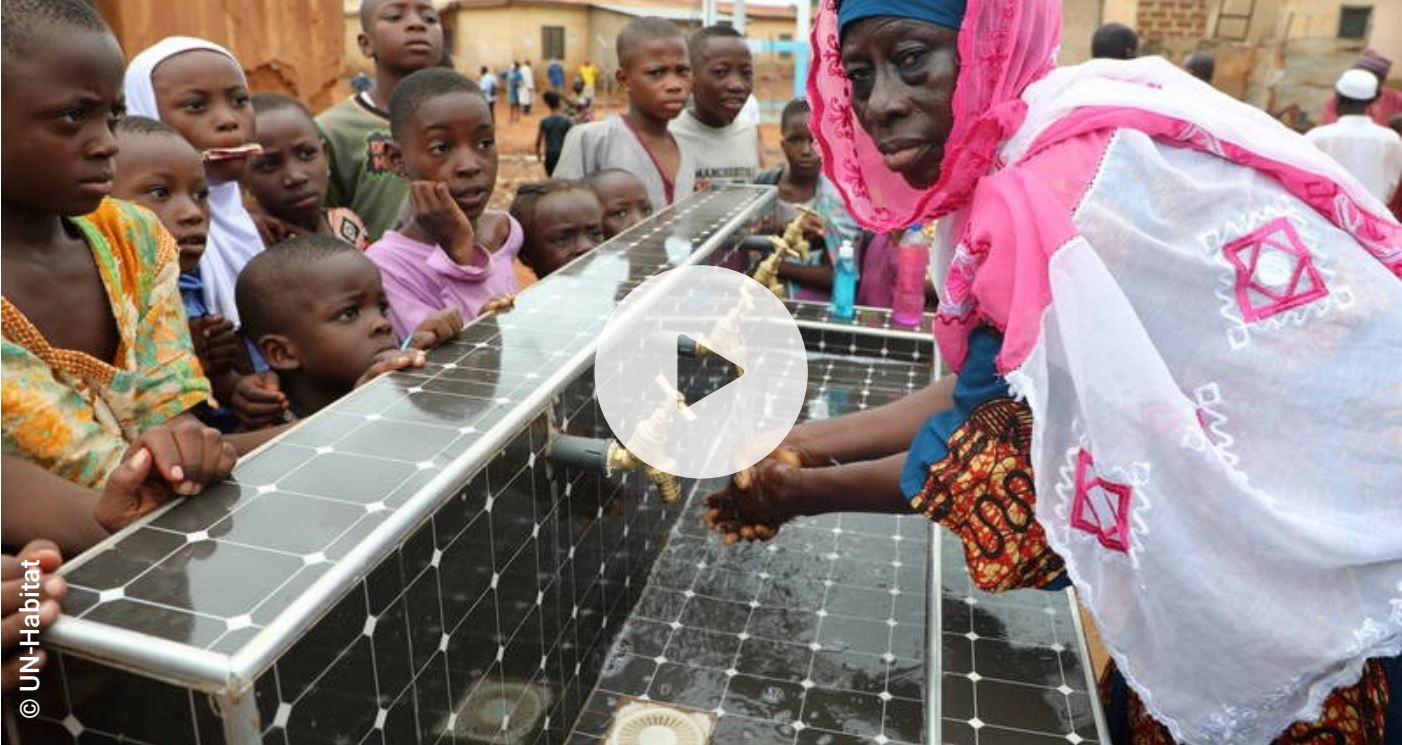
EAST AFRICA



Planning sustainable and inclusive settlements for hosts and refugees in East Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa hosts more than a quarter of the world’s refugee population, with East African countries such as Kenya and Uganda hosting nearly 508,000 and 1.5 million refugees respectively. While both of these countries have experienced relatively stable political and economic environments, they remain some of the most resource-scarce countries in the world, with many refugees living in temporary camps for increasingly extended periods. UN-Habitat’s “**Planning for Humanitarian-Development Practice**” programme has been using urban planning as a tool to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development responses. The programme aims to provide solutions to explore “Alternatives to Camps” and support the shift towards the integration of communities using long-term solutions. In Kenya, the programme is supporting the Turkana County Government and UNHCR in **piloting an integrated settlement in Kalobeyei, supporting refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee Camps**, and the development of an **economic corridor**. Several projects have been implemented according to the **Kalobeyei Advisory Development Plan**. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, UN-Habitat has continued to carry out activities under strict health measures such as the organization of a **Regional workshop on economic development along the Turkana west corridor**, an **Assessment and survey for corridor planning**, **Socio-economic surveys** for data analysis, the **Installation of thermography cameras**, and publishing a journal with **Shigeru Ban for shelter design**. A **Settlement Profiling Tool** was also published to guide field personnel in creating cross-sectoral profiles for displacement affected areas, so far covering **Kakuma-Kalobeyei** and **Dadaab** in Kenya; **Nakivale** in Uganda; **Kebribeyah** and **Qoloji** in Ethiopia.

GHANA



Residents of an informal settlement in northern Ghana receive support to tackle COVID-19

Samata Abdullahi a 70-year-old mother of six believes that installing a water tank in her Shichegu neighbourhood has contributed immensely to improving the health of women in her community. “Before this water tank was built here, we used to walk long distance in search of water. The trek and the heavy load of water left the women tired and this brought with it health complications.”

Residents of Ward K community in northern Ghana now have access to two hand washing stations and two water tanks to help their COVID-19 response. The WASH in Disaster Prone Communities (DPC) initiative was implemented in five zones in northern Ghana. About 200,000 people now have access to resilient and flood prone water supply infrastructure following the three-year joint United Nations project, led by UN-Habitat, to provide resilient and flood prone water supply infrastructure in northern Ghana. The USD 16 million project was implemented in five zones in northern Ghana with financial support from the Canadian government and provided 265 communities with access to resilient and flood prone water supply infrastructure. This ground-breaking project brought together UN-Habitat, UNICEF, World Health Organisation (WHO), UN Development Programme (UNDP) with the office of the Resident Coordinator providing overall guidance and leadership for the project. Similar projects were undertaken in Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Ashaiman Municipal Assembly, Ablekuma Central Municipal Assembly (all in Greater Accra) under COVID-19 response and recovery activities by UN-Habitat through SIDA funding.

ETHIOPIA



Making Ethiopia’s streets safer and cleaner for pedestrians and cyclists

Over the past decade, road traffic deaths and injuries in Ethiopia have increased every year. Most people still live in rural areas but cities and towns account for more than a third of fatal crashes and two-thirds of serious injuries. Most victims in urban areas are pedestrians and account for nearly 90 per cent of road deaths in the capital, Addis Ababa. In addition, air pollution in Ethiopia and particularly in its cities is on the rise caused mainly by vehicles, industry but also domestic emissions. UN-Habitat, supported by the UN Road Safety Fund and in partnership with the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), the Ethiopian Ministry of Transport, the Addis Ababa Transport Bureau and transport authorities launched the ‘**Scaling Up Safe Street Designs in Ethiopia**’ project. The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Ethiopian government at the local and national level to develop and implement policies to meet the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. Under the leadership of Ethiopia’s Minister of Transport, Ms. Dagmawit Moges, the project resulted in the adoption of a non-motorised transport strategy and a five-year implementation plan for 69 cities and towns with harmonised street design guidelines. These plans are now guiding investments in safer facilities for walking and cycling. In Addis Ababa, a city-specific non-motorised transport strategy was launched in April 2019, helping the construction of some 2.8 kilometres of cycle lanes, with more than 25 kilometres under construction. The Transport Sector Ten Years Perspective Plan calls for the implementation of 3,000 kilometres of non-motorised transport infrastructure across the country, and budgetary allocations have been made for the improvement of infrastructure for non-motorised transport from 2022. Ethiopia’s Climate Resilient Transport Sector Strategy aims to achieve “an affordable, integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable transport system that enhances the environmental, economic, social and cultural well-being of Ethiopia’s population.”

Asia Pacific

INDIA

Waste Wise Cities Tool Application Helps to Develop a Roadmap of Solid Waste Management in Mangaluru City, India



Mangaluru, with a population of 600,000 is the largest urban coastal centre in Karnataka in Southern India. UN-Habitat is working with Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) on circular resource recovery interventions under the project, “Waste Wise Cities: Tackling Plastic Waste in the Environment” funded by the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW). UN-Habitat conducted a detailed ground assessment study in the city in April 2021 through the application of the Waste Wise Cities Tool. A sample size of 90 households from high, middle and low-income groups participated in the study. Following the assessment study, the data was analysed and presented to the city stakeholders in an **online consultation workshop on Action Plan for Solid Waste Management in Mangaluru** on June 29. Mangaluru city generates 391 tonnes per day of municipal solid waste of which 110 goes for resource recovery through formal and informal facilities. Over 30 resource recovery facilities were mapped by UN-Habitat and based on the assessment results, four priority areas of intervention were identified for action awareness and capacity building; decentralized resource recovery; improvement of disposal site operations and circular investments. “The data generated after the application of Waste Wise Cities Tool will help the city in preparing a clear-cut road-map of solid waste management on the principles of circular economy to tackle the problem of Municipal Solid waste in the years to come.” said Mr. Akshy Shridhar, Commissioner, MCC.



Internally displaced families in Marawi given permanent houses

“What was important at that time, as gunshots were exchanged, was to get out of Marawi alive,” said Rocma Imam Dumamba. She still remembers the five-hour walk her family endured as they fled Tuca Marinaut, their village in what is officially known as the Islamic City of Marawi, after the siege started on 23 May 2017.

Four years after clashes between Government forces and pro-ISIS militiamen destroyed their old houses, Dumamba and her family finally have a home to call their own. They are among the 170 internally displaced families who, thanks to aid from the Japanese government have moved into newly built houses in resettlement sites located in Dulay Proper and Mipantao Gadonga, two barangays (villages) outside the city.

The families received the certificates for their new residences on July 2021 in a ceremony attended by UN-Habitat Country Programme Manager Christopher E. Rollo; Eduardo D. del Rosario, head of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD); Arnolfo Ricardo Cabling, President of the Social Housing Finance Corporation; and Majul U. Gandamra, Mayor of Marawi City.



Cambodia stakeholders kick off climate resiliency project for coastal settlements

National and local stakeholders in Cambodia joined hands to endorse and enhance climate change adaptation and resilience for the most vulnerable coastal human settlements through concrete climate change adaptation actions, particularly in areas where eco-tourism has the potential to sustain such interventions. The four-year project “Climate change adaptation through protective small-scale infrastructure interventions in coastal settlements of Cambodia” through the Adaptation Fund, will focus on increasing community capacity and the capacity of officials and institutional systems at the sub-national level in Kep Province and Preah Sihanouk Province which will benefit over 60,000 residents. Both provinces recognise tourism as an important industry and have a great potential for eco-tourism, with nature, livelihood, and community-based tourism activities. This project will benefit tourism potential directly but also the poor and vulnerable, especially from livelihoods and basic services perspective. A kick-off workshop was organized, attended by some 60 participants, jointly by the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), Ministry of Environment, and UN-Habitat in Cambodia.

Latin America and the Caribbean

BRAZIL

UN-Habitat Brazil launches award-winning documentary produced by young people in informal settlements



“A camera in your hand and an idea in your head”. The phrase by Brazilian filmmaker Glauber Rocha summarises the essence of the documentary “Visão das Grotas” (“A View from the Grotas”). The film was produced by nine young residents of “grotas”, informal settlements located in narrow ravines in the capital of Alagoas state in Brazil’s Northeast region. The group registered images and testimonies to portray a local perspective of COVID-19’s impact on their communities. Producing the documentary was a central aspect of the local Emergency Project, funded by UN-Habitat’s Emergency Fund for COVID-19 Scale-up Activities and implemented in partnership with the Alagoas State Government. For two months, remote communication workshops empowered participants to capture testimonies on the pandemic, while presenting their perspectives for a better urban future after COVID-19. “A View from the Grotas” won two awards in the Brazilian Film Festival Mostra Sururu: Best Performance and the Popular Juri Prize. The achievement not only amplified the voices of the region’s residents, but also generated an empowerment of their own capacities.

“I had never imagined I could participate in Mostra Sururu. “A View from the Grotas” made me realize that I can. I am a Black woman who can do anything!” celebrates Agnes, 21, co-director of the film.

The Emergency Project is part of a larger initiative led by UN-Habitat Brazil in partnership with the Alagoas’ Government to promote sustainable urban development. Since 2017, they have worked together to gather data and information on the most vulnerable territories in the state capital, contributing to the development of evidence-based public policies. Watch the film [here](#).



Colombia considers UN-Habitat programme to mitigate refugee crisis

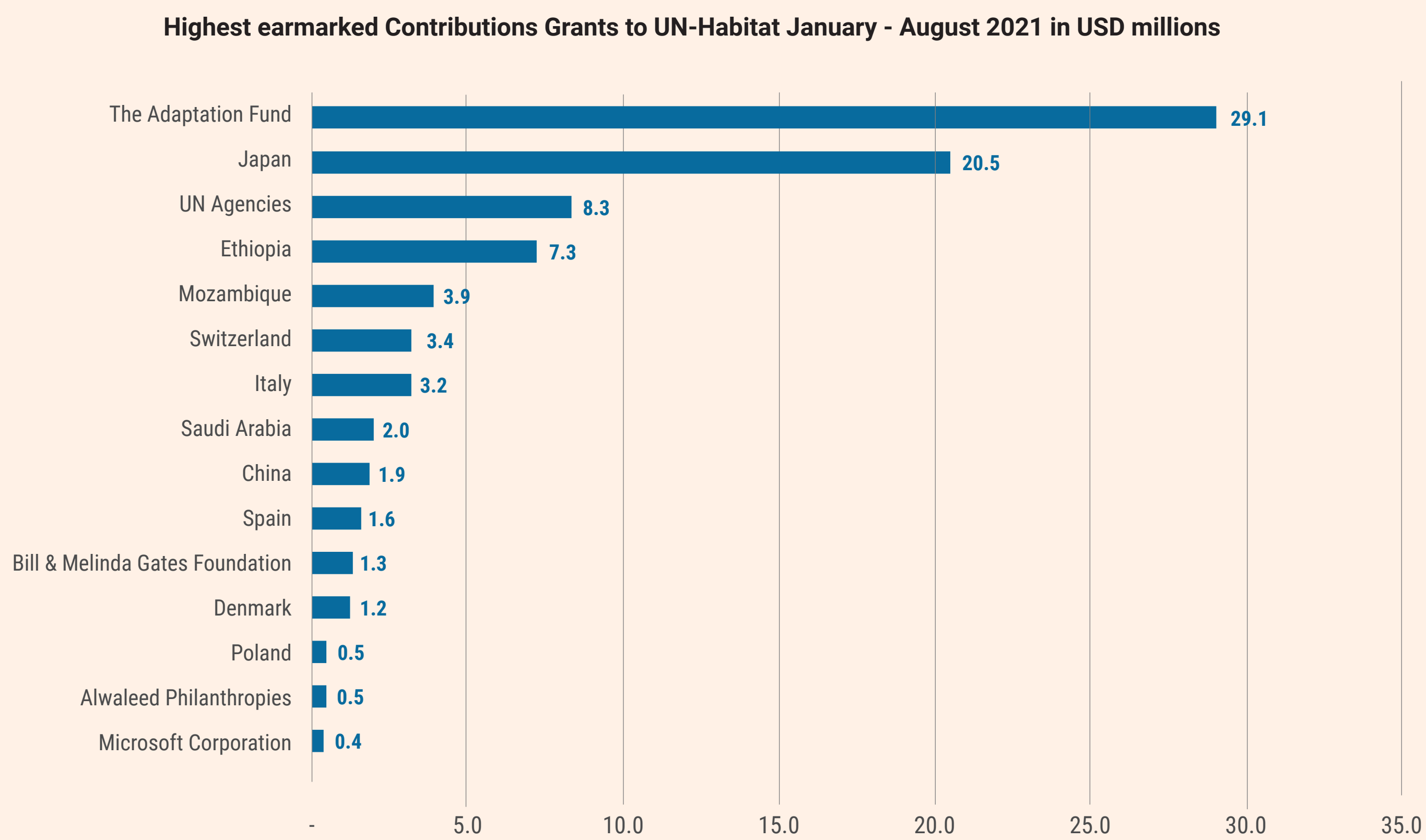
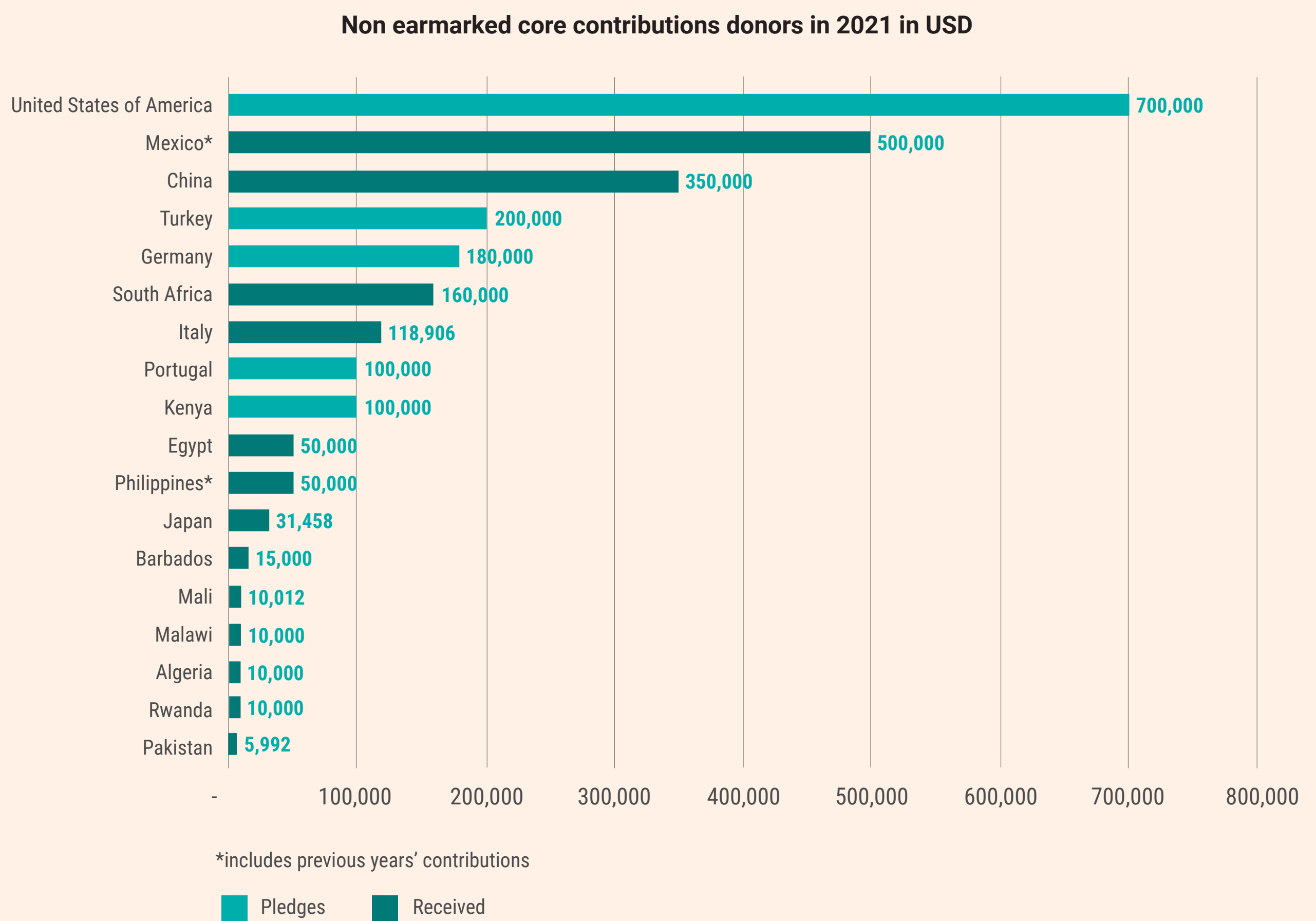
Over the past seven years, more than five million Venezuelans have fled their homeland. Many believed the migration would be a temporary but Colombia, Peru and Ecuador are still hosting large numbers of migrants. City and national officials in these countries are looking at the impact on services such as housing, water, and transportation needs. Several local and national Latin American leaders are holding talks with UN-Habitat about using the Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity programme, which brings together the refugee agency UNHCR, the International Organisation for Migration, and UN-Habitat supported by the European Union. The programme comes with the Urban Inclusion Markers, a UN-Habitat trademark toolkit used by many cities across Latin America. The Urban Inclusion Markers include more than 30 spatial and socio-economic indicators addressing five main dimensions key to achieving inclusive urban prosperity: housing and basic services; health and wellbeing; public space, safety and recreation; education, diversity and culture; and employment and economic opportunities. “The Markers can become a benchmark for accountability by local governments, in order to show the transparency and efficiency of the policies formulated,” said Roi Chiti, UN-Habitat’s coordinator for the Andean Countries and Director of the Inclusive Cities Project.



Mexican city puts “Placemaking” at the heart of post-pandemic recovery

Officials in the northern Mexican city of San Nicolas de los Garza believe that a series of short-term, low-cost, and agile initiatives will create friendly and safe public spaces for people and cyclists, improving pedestrian infrastructure. The “Placemaking Plan SNG2030” project is supported by UN-Habitat and the city of San Nicolas de los Garza (hence SNG) and the technical assistance of the Placemaking Foundation. The project proposes new ways of managing, designing, and inhabiting the public space through their renovation. The project will promote green and environmental culture, thus contributing towards urban sustainability and climate change improvement. The project phases, carried out with the participation of volunteers, neighbours, women, children, local police, and students, will be monitored to determine the feasibility of expanding them permanently to 16 more points in the city.

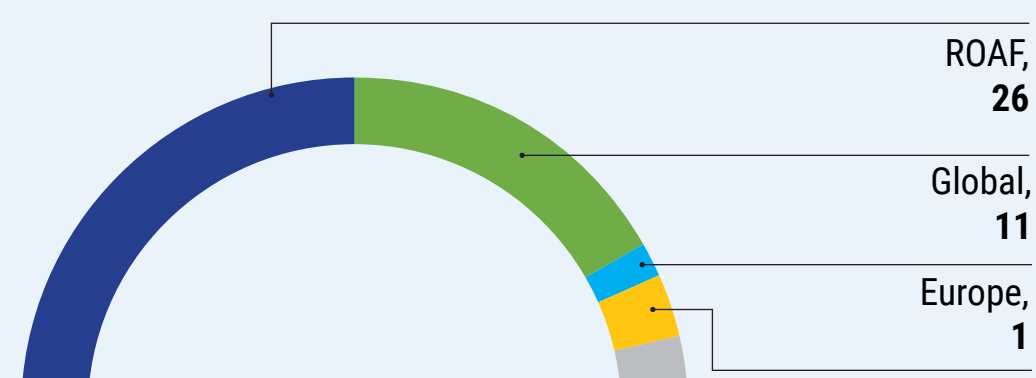
The Vision SNG2030 was recognised earlier this year as a [global best practice project of the 2030 Agenda](#) by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)



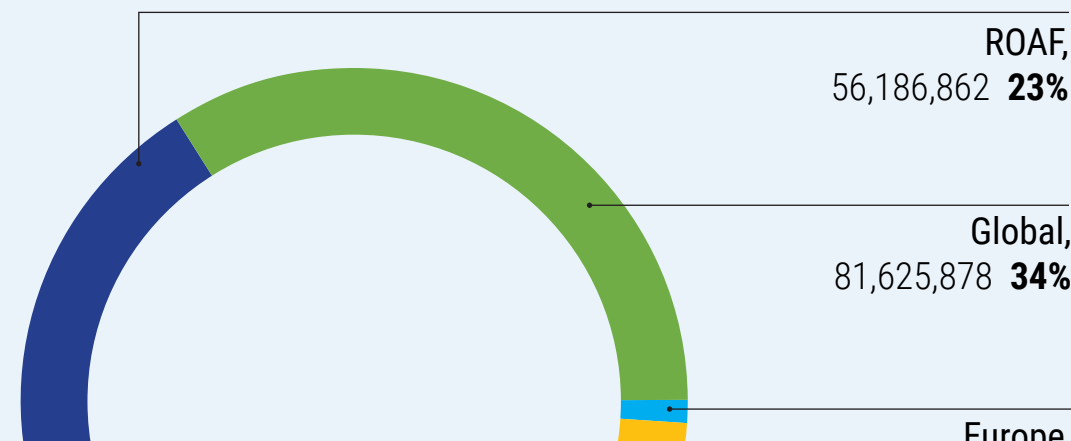
New Projects reviewed by the Program Review Committee (January -August 2021)

Several new projects (67) with a total value of USD 242, 773, 655 were approved (many of them not fully funded) covering all regions between January and August 2021 contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023, the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the SDGs. A breakdown of the distribution of projects and their dollar value is outlined below. The new projects are planned for implementation in several years, some going beyond the period of the current Strategic Plan. The budgets are therefore distributed accordingly.

Number of new projects Reviewed and approved by the PRC (Jan- Aug 2021 by Region)



Value of new Projects by Region (Jan - Aug 2021)



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